

NAACP[®] **RESOLUTIONS**

2004

**SUBMITTED UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 2 OF
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NAACP**

2004 RESOLUTIONS

I. COMMUNICATIONS

1. The NAACP Calls upon the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) to Carefully Weigh the Impact of any Intended Reforms to the Universal Service Funding (“USF”) Methodology to our Nation’s Most Vulnerable

Adopted

WHEREAS, the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) was established by the federal government to subsidize telephone service in low income communities, as well as rural and inner-city areas of the country where the cost of providing basic telephone service is high and was expanded by Congress in 1996 to provide support for rural health care providers, schools and libraries; and

WHEREAS, this USF should also be used to enhance services to rural and inner-city healthcare, rural and inner-city schools and rural and inner-city libraries; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) is currently considering changing the way the Universal Service Fund is funded from the current funding mechanism which charges on a usage basis (revenue), and long distance users are charged by their carriers based on the minutes of long distance they use while the proposed new funding mechanism would charge by subscriber (connection), and each long distance customer would pay their long distance carrier the same amount regardless of minutes used; and

WHEREAS, a drastic shift in USF funding support would hardest hit low-income, residential and low-volume long distance users, a disproportionate number of whom are minorities represented by the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, a drastic shift in USF funding support from a usage basis to a subscriber base would mean that residential customers would pay the same as business customers and low volume callers:

- limited use for emergency or security purposes (traveling, coming/going, late at night, etc.);
- children who are away (at college, on a trip, etc.);
- elderly parents who may live alone or travel; and

WHEREAS, the current revenue-based funding methodology provides a very equitable, non-discriminatory and competitively neutral approach to funding the USF fund and the proposed alternative connection based methodology does not.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP oppose any efforts to change the Universal Service Funding methodology; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourage its units to communicate with local, state and federal government to encourage them to increase funding from this Universal Services Fund and to enhance services to rural and inner-city health care, rural and inner-city schools and rural and inner-city libraries; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourage its units to communicate to the African American community and to the federal, state and local elected officials the importance of maintaining a USF funding methodology that will not harm the very people that the USF was created to protect.

II. CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. **Re-affirming 1991, 1996 and 2000 Resolutions on “Police Brutality”**

Adopted

WHEREAS, the NAACP has always stood for justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP continually takes action to eradicate injustice; and

WHEREAS, this nation remains faced daily with unfair and unjust police; and

WHEREAS, the lives of American citizens, particularly African American citizens, are taken by excessive use of force.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP re-affirm its past resolutions of 1991, 1996 and 2000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP maintain its stand to initiate and to hold appropriate authorities, including prosecutors, accountable for investigations of police brutality and when necessary, take action against police brutality; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP advocate in every jurisdiction, establishment of citizen review commissions and/or Police Trial Boards with said boards or commissions have powers, duties and responsibilities, including subpoena power, and that all units take an active role in addressing this issue.

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1(a). Re-affirming 2000 Resolution on “Improving Police Community Relations Policing Techniques”

WHEREAS, police use of excessive force has been a problem experienced by American communities for nearly one hundred years and has been a subject of concern at NAACP meetings since 1909; and

WHEREAS, the divide between communities of color and public servants charged with protecting law abiding citizens of all communities is growing at an alarming rate and continues to expand as disturbing allegations of gross police misconduct and selective enforcement by police of laws in a manner adversely affecting people of color nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP asserts that now is the time for public officials and other citizens of every community across the country to re-evaluate policing practices and the relationship between law enforcement agencies and their respective communities of color; and

WHEREAS, police use of excessive force is not simply a police-community relations problem but also is a serious crime that involves violence and corruption and that causes needless injury and death undermining public confidence in all police, can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is among those states which is specifically identified as a high crime area where: (1) police use excessive force, and (2) police officers fail to report police use of excessive force; and

WHEREAS, each year NAACP branches across the country receive many complaints about police use of excessive force and our response to these complaints should be proactive and preventive, just as it is with other serious crime problems plaguing our community; and

WHEREAS, a proactive and preventive response should include encouraging police departments to improve their management techniques not only in the areas of recruitment, training, promotion and supervision, but also in the specific area of preventing the crime of police use of excessive force; and

WHEREAS, police departments are legally required to take steps to prevent police use of excessive force; and

WHEREAS, there are programs which can help police departments develop and implement management techniques identifying associated variables and "at risk" police officers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP re-affirm its 1991 and 1996 policy on police brutality calling upon all of its Units to work with other community

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organizations to establish community advisory committees to review the measures and strategies which police departments take to combat police brutality, to include:

- reviewing existing police eligibility standards;
- proposing revision of such eligibility standards, where warranted;
- identifying the variables or factors associated with police officers using excessive force;
- identifying those police officers "at risk" for using excessive force; and
- encouraging appropriate law enforcement and other governmental officials to take appropriate proactive and corrective measures to effectively manage the associated variables and "at risk" police officers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP call upon all units to work with police unions and other police associations to identify and eliminate union contract barriers which prohibit equal opportunity in hiring and promotion within the ranks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourage all states to enact legislation specifically to identify police use of excessive force as a crime; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourage all police departments to develop and implement appropriate management techniques specifically designed to prevent police use of excessive force.

1(b). Re-affirming 1996 Resolution on “Excessive Force and Misconduct by Law Enforcement Officers and Police Departments”

WHEREAS, the NAACP is strongly committed to a Criminal Justice System {"CJS"} that is fair, equitable and dispenses justice without regard to race, sex, residency or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP is strongly opposed to crime and predatory criminals; and

WHEREAS, the personal safety of citizens from physical and verbal abuse from law enforcement officials is just as important as the containment of crime and criminals; and

WHEREAS, in many communities the actions and behavior of the staff of the Police Departments, Sheriff Offices and law enforcement agencies at all levels are increasingly abusive and are violations of the civil rights and physical well-being of citizens; and

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WHEREAS, the NAACP study outlined in *Beyond the Rodney King Story* causes grave concern regarding police misconduct, excessive force and questionable behavior.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this 87th National NAACP convention condemn police misconduct and the use of excessive force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAACP Branches charge their appropriate Committee to monitor police misconduct and the use of excessive force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAACP Branches use their Legal Redress Committees to become an advocate for innocent citizens who report instances of police misconduct and the use of excessive force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAACP Branches actively publicize these shameful incidents via widespread media and press conferences; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP National Office pursue litigation when necessary to eradicate all forms of police misconduct and excessive force.

1(c). Re-affirming 1991 Resolution on Police Brutality

WHEREAS, the National NAACP has always stood for justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, this organization has always taken action to eradicate injustice and inequality; and

WHEREAS, this nation remains faced daily with unfair and unjust police brutality; and

WHEREAS, the lives of American citizens, particularly African American citizens, are taken by excessive use of force.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National NAACP continue to take a stand to initiate and hold appropriate authorities accountable for investigations and, when necessary, take legal action against police brutality and negligence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chiefs of Police be held accountable to elected public officials who will have responsibility to hire and fire Chiefs of Police who are in violation of accountability resulting from police brutality; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP requests in every jurisdiction establishment of citizen police review commissions with said commissions having powers, duties and responsibilities comparable to other human relations commissions already existing in some jurisdictions, and that all units take an active role in addressing this issue.

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2. Substance Abuse and Psychological Testing of Police Officers

Adopted

WHEREAS, if a bus or train driver had an accident, one of the first steps in the investigation of the accident requires the driver to undergo a substance abuse test; and

WHEREAS, despite the adoption of racial profiling laws, there is still an alarming number of police shootings of African Americans within the African American communities; and

WHEREAS, police departments do get federal funding for their operations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the federal government should exercise some power in setting guidelines for the police departments to follow; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP support federal legislation which requires any police officer who discharges a gun or uses excessive force while on duty to undergo substance abuse and psychological testing.

3. Three Strikes Laws

Adopted

WHEREAS, Three Strike Laws have been disproportionately applied to African Americans and other people of color; and

WHEREAS, the district attorney in each jurisdiction has the discretion to recommend imposition of the law as he or she sees fit; and

WHEREAS, three strike convictions are routinely applied to misdemeanors including, for example, the non-violent thefts of three video tapes and a \$25.00 car alarm; and

WHEREAS, racial bias has been documented in numerous studies surrounding the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are over-represented in all criminal justice statistics, including arrests, incarceration and executions, and one in four black men are under some form of criminal sanction, incarceration, probation or parole.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP urge all of its units to work toward the repeal of all three-strike-laws and legislation.

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4. All NAACP Units to Call for an Efficient Rehabilitative Correctional System Through the Implementation of a Performance-Based Program by Supporting the Literacy Education and Rehabilitation Act

Adopted

WHEREAS, the NAACP is the preeminent civil rights organization in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a major focal point of the NAACP is to ensure the ...*”political, educational (emphasis added), social and economic equality of rights of all persons;”* and

WHEREAS, We the People, have entrusted our representatives with the responsibility of establishing a functional correctional system; and

WHEREAS, the objective of the correctional system is rehabilitation to ensure that individuals, upon their release, will be functioning members of our society; and

WHEREAS, rehabilitation shall be provided in a timely manner so that funds and resources are not ill-spent; and

WHEREAS, at the end of 1999, according to the Bureau of Justice statistics, a record 6.3 million people (3.1% of all United States adult residents) were under “correctional supervision” in the United States in jail, in prison, on probation or on parole; and

WHEREAS, federal prisons are operating at 32% over capacity; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the sentencing guidelines and mandatory minimum laws, along with the repeal of parole has brought about longer and harsher sentences, especially for drug offenders; and

WHEREAS, the number of drug offenders in federal prisons increased more than 12% annually from 1996 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of mandatory minimum sentencing, the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ budget has increased by 1,954% and its budget jumped from \$220 million in 1986 to more than \$4.3 billion in 2001; and

WHEREAS, over 80% of the increase in the federal prison population from 1985 to 1995 was due to drug convictions; and

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WHEREAS, minorities and impoverished whites are more likely to be convicted of a drug offense and thereby account for the majority of the prison population; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice, studies of recidivism report that, “the amount of time inmates serve in prison does not increase or decrease the likelihood of recidivism;” and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the lack of marketable skills greatly increases the risk of recidivism; and

WHEREAS, according to the Correctional Institution Higher Education Reform Initiative, “research reveals that incarcerated persons who do not hold a high school diploma stand a 60% greater chance of returning to prison, while those who earn an associate degree have only a 13.7% chance of re-incarceration and those who earn a bachelor’s degree stand only a 5.6% risk of recidivism;” and

WHEREAS, current legislation limits the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ ability to provide prisoners with incentives for participating in vocational and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, the combination of lengthy sentences in the corrections system that does not reward its prisoners for their accomplishments does not motivate prisoners to achieve anything, but instead promotes apathy; and

WHEREAS, the current correctional system is not only a failure to prisoners, but taxpayers who are made to pay little social price of having to co-exist with individuals who are the better prepared arguably worse so to become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the failures and shortcomings of our current correctional system, Representative Bobby Scott of Virginia has agreed to sponsor The Literacy Education and Rehabilitation Act; and

WHEREAS, the Literacy Education and Rehabilitation Act was drafted by the Federal Prison Policy Project, a group that advocates on behalf of the federal inmate population and their families; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the Literacy Education and Rehabilitation Act:

- require that the Federal Bureau of Prisons provide remedial, vocational and other rehabilitative opportunities to better prepare prisoners for a successful return to society;

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- amend Title 18 USC § 3624 to better demonstrate to taxpayers that money spent by the federal government on incarceration is rehabilitating the prisoners in its custody;
- expand the limitations which authorize the Federal Bureau of Prisons to provide prisoners with incentives for participating in vocational and educational programs; and
- provide significant incentives which will encourage prisoners to develop marketable skills.

WHEREAS, rehabilitation rather than warehousing will once again be the focal point of the United States Correctional System.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP support the Literacy Education and Rehabilitation Act which:

- promotes participation in higher education and vocational programs in prisons;
- rewards prisoners based only on their achievements and exceptional behavior; and promises to reduce the rate in recidivism.

5. Preventing Law Enforcement from Gross Misconduct

Adopted

WHEREAS, law enforcement was created to protect the right of all citizens, including inmates incarcerated, regardless of race, color or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement personnel are required to perform their duties within full compliance of all State and Constitutional Laws; and

WHEREAS, it is offensive, demeaning and inappropriate for law enforcement personnel to exercise excessive force against private citizens, including incarcerated inmates, both youth and adult.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that when law enforcement personnel allegedly use excessive force while in line of duty, the officer(s) will be immediately suspended from his or her position pending full investigation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that when alleged excessive force used by law enforcement personnel resulting in death is to be referred to the State Attorney General and the United States Department of Justice for a full intensive investigation.

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6. Legal Education and Community Service

Adopted

WHEREAS, in our legal community, there is an under-representation of blacks in public service, prosecution and public defender positions; and

WHEREAS, much of the shortfall can be attributed to recent jurist doctorate graduates having to rush into private practice after fulfilling their bar requirements in order to pay off student loans and other financial obligations incurred while in law school; and

WHEREAS, the debt load for law degrees can exceed \$300,000 when other family maintenance costs are considered for the cost of a legal education; and

WHEREAS, entry level positions in prosecution and public defender roles provide excellent developmental opportunities for graduates in pursuit of careers in the legal field, although these positions are more often less financially lucrative compared to private practice positions; and

WHEREAS, a loan forgiveness provision for entry level lawyers who agree to serve a period of time upon graduation in the prosecutor's office and as public defenders could serve as an excellent incentive for entry-level lawyers as they become solidly based with a great background of experience.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP support legislation that provides forgiveness for student loans for new lawyers who enter public service through such offices as legal aid societies, state and federal prosecutors offices and public defenders offices for a minimum of four years of their early career.

III. EDUCATION

1. Compulsory School Age

Adopted

WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act has revised the elementary and secondary act; and

WHEREAS, the emphasis on assessments is causing school districts to establish within their strategic plans, a more intensified curriculum to meet the demands; and

WHEREAS, many pre-school programs are establishing a more academically inclined program as preparation for students entering kindergarten; and

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WHEREAS, many states have designated the compulsory age to begin school at more than six years of age; and

WHEREAS, a child entering school at age seven or above for the first time without the benefit of any formal instruction may be educationally and developmentally disadvantaged in a way that “could adversely affect his or her future professional and personal life.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP, in compliance with its “Call To Action In Education,” direct state conferences and local units to propose legislation to change the compensatory school age to not greater than six if it does not now exist.

IV. FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. Support for Reconciliation in Rwanda

Adopted

WHEREAS, the world recently observed the tenth anniversary of the horrific genocide that took place in Rwanda; and

WHEREAS, as the fastest and most vicious genocide recorded in human history it is estimated that as many as one million lives were lost in only one hundred days; and

WHEREAS, Rwanda today is attempting to rebuild and reconcile its people; and

WHEREAS, given the enormity of this atrocity, reconciliation is undoubtedly a colossal and extremely painful task; and

WHEREAS, it is also a necessary step if Rwanda, and indeed the world, is going to move forward; and

WHEREAS, the current government has put into place a system through which Rwandans accused of participating in the genocide may be tried and justice sought; and

WHEREAS, while bringing those responsible for the genocide to justice is important in the healing process, there are several other key elements that must also be attended to if the Rwandan people are ever going to truly move forward and ensure that such horrors never occur again; and

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WHEREAS, specifically, the Rwandan people and government must attain economic, political and social stability and prosperity if the reconciliation process is to be truly successful and the genocide of the past will never occur again.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon the United States Government, the United Nations and all other people, NGOs and nations throughout the world who were horrified by the 1994 genocide to do all they can to help the Rwandan people build strong economic, social and political infrastructures to assure that any such atrocity never happen again; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be conveyed to the people of Rwanda; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP stands ready to do all it can as an NGO and as a political force within the United States, to see to it that the Rwandan genocide is neither forgotten nor repeated.

2. Central American Free Trade Agreement (“CAFTA”)

Adopted

WHEREAS, an analysis of long term unemployment from 2000 to 2003 indicates that the number of people without work for six or more months has risen to an extraordinarily high rate of 198.2%; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics figures indicate that 8.4 million Americans were out of work and Black Americans bear the highest burden of 10.7% compared to whites at 5.1%; and

WHEREAS, these figures support the notion that Black workers, especially middle class; blue-collar industrial workers are more likely than white workers to be displaced and less likely to find employment after experiencing job displacement; and

WHEREAS, the major issue devastating our communities today is the lack of jobs; and

WHEREAS, North American Free Trade Agreement (“NAFTA”) has a proven track record for loosing American jobs, bankrupting farmers, creating sweatshop anti-union jobs for workers and severely polluting the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Free Trade of the Americas Agreement (FTAA) is a trade agreement to remove barriers to maximize corporate profit and is similar in purpose and function to the NAFTA; and

WHEREAS, the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) is similar and a first step to free trade of the Americas agreement; and

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WHEREAS, the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) is being negotiated undemocratically behind closed doors by governments and multi-national corporations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP oppose passage of CAFTA and any trade agreement that puts the United States businesses and jobs in jeopardy; and

BE IT FINALLLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP oppose any trade agreement negotiated without the approval of concerned people that does not include strong language protecting the environment, labor rights and sovereign rights of the population.

V. LEGISLATIVE

1. Resolution Requesting Legal Support for Indigent Citizens

Adopted

WHEREAS, there is a need to encourage legislation providing high quality, legal representation for persons unable to afford counsel in civil cases; and

WHEREAS, for years the federal resources available to the Legal Services Corporation ["LSC"] have eroded and restrictions have been placed on the types of civil cases the Legal Service Corporations can render for reflecting the lack of commitment to equal justice; and

WHEREAS, studies show that 80% of the legal need for the poor is not met because they are priced out of the system; and

WHEREAS, an ongoing objective of the NAACP is to ensure for minority group citizens equal access to every democratic process including the civil justice system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourage every unit of the Association to spearhead and/or work in coalition with other community groups; lobbying for an initiative for state and federal legislation that will increase funding to the LSC, lift restrictions on types of cases LSC can render services and thus enhancing the chances of counsel for indigent claimants in civil cases in order that they may have equal access to justice.

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2. **Resolution on H.R. 1261, “Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act of 2003” Which Would Amend and Re-authorize the Workforce Investment Act of 1998**

Adopted

WHEREAS, H. R. 1261, “Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act of 2003” as proposed would amend and reauthorize the “Workforce Investment Act of 1998” that brought new emphasis and substantive reform to how youth will be served within the new workforce development system; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Investment Boards, through their youth councils, served as the vehicle to develop comprehensive and integrated strategies to help in-school and out-of-school youth prepare for successful entry into the workforce by offering them a comprehensive array of services so that they were able to successfully transition to the workforce through continued education and training; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act created the youth councils with the expectation that they would “... serve as their community’s clearinghouse and local experts on workforce development issues concerning youth:” with community persons serving on youth councils in decision-making capacities; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor (DOL) and her administration, at their 2000 Convention in Tennessee, challenged the Workforce Investment Boards “. . .to think outside of the box in creating ways and means to develop workforce systems that meet the needs of their particular communities;” and

WHEREAS, H. R. 1261 would strike the mandated “youth council” requirement as subgroup within each local workforce investment board, which would allow local boards to disregard the inherent need to address the education and workforce issues that plague our youth; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP believes that the current Workforce Investment Act of 1998 should not be amended to remove the mandated youth council requirements because it would limit the ability of African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities to serve in decision-making capacities and on committees of the current local workforce investment boards; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP also believes that all youth can excel in their lives, with the right interventions at the right time, they will have a major impact on their future success; and

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WHEREAS, the current unemployment rate for youth in the United States as of February, 2004 was 12.3% and among African American youth, it was 22.5%; and

WHEREAS, the unemployment rate for youth in 1998, when the original Act was passed was 11.4%; lower than the current youth unemployment rate that added weight to justifying why youth councils are even more necessary now than they were in 1998; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has already appointed a conferee for the reauthorization of HR 1261 to resolved differences, the Senate has not; and

WHEREAS, without reauthorization of federal guidelines, funding we will be lost for the youth employment initiatives and minority empowerment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP at its 2004 Convention, urge the United States House of Representatives, The United States Senate, and the President of The United States, in the strongest possible terms to ensure that youth councils remain a mandated subgroup of local workforce investment boards in the Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act of 2003; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP call upon the Senate to immediately appoint the appropriate conferees to resolve issues related to HR 1261.

3. **National Civil Rights Campaign to Save our Children, Families and Communities from Draconian Laws and Mass-Incarceration**

Adopted

WHEREAS, our children represent the continuity of our collective existence and the source of our immortality; and

WHEREAS, the birth, rearing and protection of our children is the primary objective and central focus of our families; and

WHEREAS, the family is historically and traditionally the epicenter of African American strength and culture; and

WHEREAS, the right to maintain family integrity and control over the rearing of children is a paramount civil and constitutional right; and

WHEREAS, American civil rights promises all Americans, regardless of race, creed, or national origin, the right to freedom and liberty and protection from laws

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that, in application have a disparate impact on members of one particular race or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and the President of the United States enacted Public Law 98-473, also known as the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, one of the most far-reaching series of changes on the federal criminal justice system ever enacted at one time; and

WHEREAS, the bail reform provisions of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 have made bail virtually unattainable to African Americans and other poor and minority defendants who are presumed innocent and which provisions have caused numerous defendants to accept plea agreements made under duress, without regard to guilt, in order to be removed from county jails which are no more than de facto concentration camps; and

WHEREAS, the forfeiture provisions of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 has also had a disparate impact on African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority Americans; and

WHEREAS, the sentencing reform provisions of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 have been used, in African American and other racial and ethnic minority communities to create a network of inherently unreliable, paid informants who have been utilized to turn family against family and de-stabilize entire communities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and the President of the United States have enacted Public Law 99-570, also known as the Anti-Drug Act of 1986 which established a one hundred to one ratio in the sentencing requirements for cocaine hydrochloride and cocaine-based offenses; and

WHEREAS, the result of the one hundred to one ratio has been the establishment of penalties for possession of small amounts of cocaine base that are unprecedented in the annals of American criminal justice and which penalties may only be accurately described as draconian; and

WHEREAS, there is no molecular difference in cocaine hydrochloride and cocaine base; and

WHEREAS, even during debate of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 the racial disparities were predicted as Congressman Clay Shaw said that it would "... save minority neighborhoods...all over the country;" and

WHEREAS, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 was specifically intended to set prohibited amounts of cocaine-base, also known as "crack" cocaine, so low as to "...qualify...users as dealers..." and

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WHEREAS, the result of the enactment of the aforementioned public laws has been the wholesale interference with the constitutionally guaranteed rights of ethnic minority Americans to travel and hold property and be free of unreasonable searches and seizures; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned public laws have had a dramatic disparate impact on African Americans and Hispanic American men, women and children; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the aforementioned laws has been the mass incarceration of African American and Hispanic American men, women and children; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the aforementioned laws, the rate of incarceration of African Americans for non-violent crimes is 4,819 per 1,000,000 while that for white Americans is 649 per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, 12% of African American men between the ages of 20 and 34 are presently incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, there are more African American men in prison than in college; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of African American men in prison and jail in the United States is more than five (5) times the rate at which African American men were imprisoned in South Africa at the height of the racist apartheid system; and

WHEREAS, the percentage increase in the incarceration rates for African American women annually exceeds that for African American men; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of incarcerated African American women have children under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, the rates of surveillance, investigation, arrest, prosecution and incarceration as adults of African American juveniles are much greater than those of their white counterparts; and

WHEREAS, three out of four juveniles are admitted to adult prisons are African American or a racial or ethnic minority; and

WHEREAS, the wanton disparities against African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority Americans that have already been mentioned are the direct result of the aforementioned public laws, which were enacted specifically to implement the so-called "war on drugs;" and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has held that "though the law itself may be fair on its face and impartial in appearance, yet if it is applied and

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administered by public authority with an evil eye and an unequal hand, so as to practically make an unjust and illegal discrimination between persons in similar circumstances, material to their rights, the denial of equal justice is still within the prohibition of the Constitution;” and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has also held that when the original enactment of a statute is “...motivated by a desire to discriminate against blacks on account of their race... it violates Equal Protections;” and

WHEREAS, NAACP President and CEO, Kweisi Mfume has noted that in 1993, 88.3% of federal crack cocaine trafficking convictions were by African Americans and that such statistics raise a “strong inference of invidious discrimination;” and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Maxine Waters has stated that “(W)e believe there is a conspiracy against our children and against our communities and that our children are targeted;” and

WHEREAS, at least one Congressperson has publicly questioned whether “...there is a conspiracy among the ...majority to incarcerate as many African American males as possible;” and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has found that the one hundred to one ratio for cocaine hydrochloride and cocaine-based is “not medically, scientifically or socially supportable and unfairly burden(s) the African American community;” and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has concluded that the “War on Drugs” has been disproportionately targeted at inner-city black communities;” and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has concluded that “if legislation and “sentencing” guidelines were changed ... the black/white difference in sentences for cocaine trafficking would not only evaporate, but would slightly reverse;” and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has found that the evidence is “overwhelming” that the criminal justice system often unfairly targets African Americans and their communities for surveillance, investigation, prosecution and harassment;” and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has found that “the 1986 Act was expedited through Congress...” and that the “Congress dispensed with most of the typical legislative process, including committee analysis of the Act’s provisions,” and that Congress composed the “troubling” one hundred to one ratio in thirty (30) days;” and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has determined that the 100 to 1 ratio is “ . . .unfair, irrational and has a significant discriminatory impact on African Americans;” and

WHEREAS, the United States Sentencing Commission, on May 1, 1995, transmitted to Congress an amendment to the sentencing guidelines to abolish

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the one hundred to one disparity and to equalize the statutory penalties having found, after careful study, no justification for the disparity; and

WHEREAS, the United States Sentencing Commission also submitted to Congress, on the same day, proposed legislation (“The Cocaine Penalty Adjustment Act of 1995”) to harmonize the crack penalty statutes with the proposed guidelines amendment; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, for the first time in its history, rejected the guidelines’ amendment and proposed legislation; and

WHEREAS, no change in the law has been forthcoming in the more than eight (8) years since the guidelines amendment and proposed legislation were rejected by the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities continue to be incarcerated under the longest sentences in the history of American criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, more than one million African Americans are imprisoned in the United States and another two million are under some form of criminal justice supervision; and

WHEREAS, the decimation of African American families and their communities continues unabated; and

WHEREAS, no community can long survive when its men, women and children suffer under the impact of laws which disparately target their communities and result in mass incarceration; and

WHEREAS, convicted felons have limitations or obstructions placed on their rights to vote in nearly every state of the United States; and

WHEREAS, by reason of the denial of the right to vote, such persons are unable to effect change of the law through the conventional means of the ballot; and

WHEREAS, criminal justice reform is unequivocally and undeniably a civil rights issue; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP is the preeminent civil rights organization in the United States, if not the world; and

WHEREAS, one of the stated and longstanding missions of the NAACP is to fight racially discriminatory legislation and to seek repeal of such legislation.

2004 RESOLUTIONS

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP launch a national multi-media campaign to “Save our Children, Families and Communities” by publicly demanding the repeal of draconian provisions in the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 and other public laws which undercut American principles of innocence until proven guilty by making bail virtually unattainable to racial and ethnic minorities and the poor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP support the repeal of provisions in the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 and other laws which allow for asset forfeiture which unfairly penalize the innocent and family members not included in accused crimes and in some cases even serve as nothing more than a scam in some jurisdictions to confiscate, hold and profit from property and cash money; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP support the repeal of provisions in the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 and other laws that result in the unfair implementation of sentencing disparities in our drug enforcement laws which arbitrarily and intentionally target the poor and more harshly the citizens of little financial means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP support the repeal of provisions in the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 and other laws that create or maintain mandatory minimum sentences and effectively eviscerate much needed judicial discretion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP support the repeal of provisions in the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 and other laws that institute unfair, biased and unreasonable search and seizure procedures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP support the repeal of provisions in the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the Anti-Drug Act of 1986 and other laws that allow and promote surveillance practices that unnecessarily intrude on the right to privacy as intended in our nation’s Bill of Rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP support the repeal of provisions in the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 and other laws that do not allow more alternatives to incarceration such as community based drug treatment program and community service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP support the repeal of provisions in the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 and other laws that allow the transfer of any juveniles to adult courts; or the placement of any juveniles into adult prison facilities; and

2004 RESOLUTIONS

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP support the repeal of provisions in the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 and other laws that create drug-related guidelines that supercede the guidelines recommended by the United States Sentencing Commission.

VI. VETERANS AFFAIRS

1. Black Veterans Deserve More Support

Adopted

WHEREAS, veterans of the United States Armed Forces provided a unique and vital service to the nation as a whole in the preservation of freedom and liberty enjoyed by all who reside within our borders; and

WHEREAS, black veterans of the United States Armed Forces have served this country to protect and preserve this country's freedoms since the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, black veterans are entitled to their vested rights to health care, education, housing, employment and rehabilitation in exchange for their service; and

WHEREAS, black veterans are often systematically denied the same level of services and benefits as their white counterparts; and

WHEREAS, black male veterans are disproportionately more homeless and more unemployed than any other ethnic group who has served in the United States Armed Forces.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP do more to bring attention and awareness to the plight of black veterans in America; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP organize an annual workshop at the National Convention and state conference conventions to bring awareness to the unique concerns confronting black veterans in this country, and to formulate recommendations for solutions to be submitted to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of the United States of America.

2004 RESOLUTIONS

VII. VOTING RIGHTS

1. Support of Full Voting Rights for All Citizens of the United States, Including the Residents of the District of Columbia

Adopted

WHEREAS, over half a million people living in the District of Columbia, capitol of our democratic nation, are denied voting representation in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, District of Columbia residents are denied local governmental autonomy and must submit their local budget for approval to the U.S. Congress where they have no voting representation; and

WHEREAS, District of Columbia residents share all the responsibilities of American citizenship but are denied equal civil rights with their fellow Americans living in the states; and

WHEREAS, District of Columbia veterans fought and died to defend America's democracy in every war since the War of Independence; and

WHEREAS, District of Columbia residents pay over \$3 billion annually in federal income taxes; and

WHEREAS, our nation is founded on the principles of "one person, one vote" and government by the consent of the governed; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States found the United States to be in violation of international human rights law for its disenfranchisement of District of Columbia residents; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power, "[t]o exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such District ... as may ... become the seat of the government of the United States," and "[t]o make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers;" and

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides all citizens of the United States of America with the guarantee of the equal protection of the laws, and gives Congress the power to enforce such guarantee; and

WHEREAS, there are serious efforts in many states to re-enfranchise non citizen immigrants permitting them voting rights in national, state and local elections.

2004 RESOLUTIONS

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP affirm its support of full voting representation for the residents of the District of Columbia by endorsing Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton's and Senator Joseph Lieberman's "No Taxation Without Representation Act" (H.R. 1285 and S. 617, respectively) and other similar solutions for full voting representation for District of Columbia residents; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to ensure bi-partisan support in the United States House and the United States Senate for the "No Taxation Without Representation Act," we strongly encourage our members to contact their members of congress and their senators to ask them to be a co-sponsor of this important legislation; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that with national polling data showing that most Americans are unaware of the disenfranchisement of District of Columbia residents, and that when informed about supporting voting rights, the NAACP through its national, regional and local officers and its members, will work to better raise awareness and to educate the American citizenry about this injustice and take action towards a solution.

2. All Veterans Should Be Permitted to Vote

Adopted

WHEREAS, currently, 32 states prohibit felons from voting while they are on parole and 28 states exclude felony probationers, even if no prison time is involved; and

WHEREAS, a disproportionate number of veterans returning from war have been incarcerated as compared to veterans who served in time of peace; and

WHEREAS, voter disenfranchisement is an offense to democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, disenfranchisement of those who jeopardize their lives in defense of democratic ideals is an offense to the conscience of our nation; and

WHEREAS, denying veterans who commit a crime and who serve their sentences the right to vote amounts to denial of the possibility of redemption.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP support legislation that would allow veterans who have been convicted of felonies to register to vote after being released from incarceration.

2004 RESOLUTIONS

VIII. INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. Implementation of Women in the NAACP ("WIN") as a Standing Committee

Adopted

WHEREAS, Women in the NAACP ("WIN") as been an important part of the NAACP since 1988; and

WHEREAS, WIN has worked tirelessly and faithfully voiced the unique concerns of women serving the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, WIN has helped raise millions of dollars to help support NAACP activities on local, statewide, conference-wide and national levels; and

WHEREAS, WIN'S effectiveness in organizing women to work on behalf of issues of vital concern to the NAACP would be enhanced by creating WIN committees as a standing committee (similar to other NAACP standing committees like legal redress).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP establish, as a standing committee at the local, statewide, conference-wide, and national levels, the "WIN COMMITTEE."

2. Membership Recognition

Adopted

WHEREAS, the work of the NAACP members at the local level is critical to the life of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, many members have served this Association with distinction and honor; and

WHEREAS, these members have contributed to and positively influenced the lives of millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, members having dedicated themselves to advocate for the interests of the disenfranchised citizen and have exhibited leadership and commitment in the struggle against all forms of discrimination and inequality; and

WHEREAS, the distinguished services and efforts of members have earned them the gratitude and recognition of the public, the respect and admiration of colleagues and community leaders, and the enduring affection of family and friends; and

2004 RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, a quarter century and a half century of membership in and services to the NAACP should be formally recognized by the NAACP.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall issue "Silver Certificates" to living members having continuously maintained their membership for 25 years, and "Gold Certificates" to living members having continuously maintained their membership for 50 years, as submitted by units and list their names on a "Silver/Gold Certificate Honor Roll of Service;" and

BE IF FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall acknowledge the names of those members now deceased, having served 25 years and 50 years, as submitted by units by listing their names on a "Silver/Gold Certificate Honor Roll of Service."

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

2004 EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

I. CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. Reaffirming Opposition to the Death Penalty

Adopted

WHEREAS, the NAACP adopted a resolution in 2001 re-affirming our opposition to the death penalty due to its racially disparate application; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has re-affirmed its 1975 resolution opposing the death penalty on the grounds that it constitutes cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, many people, including Mumia Abu-Jamal, are incarcerated on death row and face possible execution; and

WHEREAS, more than 320 people on death row have been exonerated; and

WHEREAS, though African Americans make up only 12.4% of the U.S. population, we make up 38% of all the Americans that were sentenced to death and later freed after being found innocent; and

WHEREAS, African Americans make up 35% of those found innocent after being executed; and

WHEREAS, African Americans make up over 80% of those awaiting execution on federal death row; and

WHEREAS, 145 people have been exonerated based on DNA evidence; and

WHEREAS, there is no possible way of restoring the life of an innocent person killed by the death penalty; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the death penalty raises concerns regarding biased identification, police and prosecutorial misconduct, judicial apathy in protecting the rights of the accused, faulty evidence, inadequate defense representation, coerced confessions, and fabricated testimony.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reiterates its strong opposition to the death penalty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP call on its units throughout the United States, and the world, to support the international call for Mumia Abu-Jamal to be released from death row; and

2004 EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP reiterate its support of the international movement for a new and fair trial for Mumia Abu Jamal; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP renew its call for new nationwide studies on racial discrimination, the adequacy of counsel, access to modern research technology such as DNA analysis, the sentencing of children and women to the death penalty and that the NAACP reiterate its call for a national moratorium on all executions.

II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Tourism Sanctions Against South Carolina

Adopted

WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina continues to exhibit a confederate mentality in responding to the interests of African Americans living within its borders, evidenced most notably by its insistence upon having the confederate battle flag flown in a sovereign position at the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, the government of South Carolina continues to defy the call made by the NAACP in 1999 to retire all Confederate battle flags being flown at the State Capitol to a museum or other places of purely historical significance; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP, through its South Carolina State Conference and 1700 other units around the globe launched a campaign to restrict tourism events being scheduled in South Carolina as long as the State continued to disrespect African Americans and other people of good conscience by flying the divisive Confederate banner at the State House; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina has attempted to lure visitors to the State by increasing its advertising expenditures, and recently allocating \$5.7 million in public funds to support establishment of a Palmetto Bowl in Charleston amid languishing needs in the State's public school districts, especially in those districts where the student population is overwhelmingly African American; and

WHEREAS, patriotic citizens from communities across the nation have banded together with the NAACP by canceling conferences, family reunions, meetings and other events that support the tourism industry in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, fraternal, faith, civic and professional organizations that share in our belief that the flag that represents the Confederate States of America's campaign to preserve the institution of slavery in this country should not be represented as an official symbol of the government of South Carolina, continue to avoid scheduling conferences and meetings in the Palmetto State; and

2004 EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, organizations such as the Black Coaches Association (BCA), the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) steadfastly oppose the immoral practice of flying Confederate flags at the State House in South Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP applaud the efforts of millions of people of America and around the world who have helped to advance the “campaign for dignity” for our brothers and sisters in South Carolina and supported the call to retire the Confederate battle flag flown at the Capitol in South Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourage the NCAA to maintain its moratorium on sporting events being scheduled in the State of South Carolina, and commend the BCA and NABC on their unwavering advocacy and support of the tourism sanctions on South Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP acknowledge and give the highest praise to the vast array of organizations – corporate, civic, fraternal, social and professional – and numerous individuals who have demonstrated with us by marching their tourism dollars away from the State of South Carolina; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we admonish the government of the State of South Carolina to comply with the letter and spirit of the NAACP’s call to remove the Confederate battle flag from all positions of sovereignty in the State, and pursue a vision of a bright future that creates a multicultural society where citizens of color are afforded equal respect and opportunity.

III. FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. Condemning the Genocide in Sudan and Calling on the International Community to Take Immediate Action to Stop the Killing

Adopted

WHEREAS, in the Darfur region of western Sudan, an estimated 30,000 innocent civilians have been brutally murdered, more than 200,000 people have been forced from their homes and have fled to neighboring Chad, and more than 1 million people have been internally displaced and are trapped in disease-ridden camps without adequate food, water, or access to even the most basic medical care; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that as many as 350,000 more Sudanese men, women and children could die in the next few months as the rainy season makes the Darfur region inaccessible to aid workers and others; and

2004 EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, in the Darfur region, the government of Sudan and its proxy, the Janjaweed Arab-African militia, have over the last 16 months attempted to crush a rebellion by Muslim Africans with the same vicious tactics they have used for years against Christian and animist opponents in Southern Sudan; while negotiating a peace agreement with southern rebel forces, the government and its militia have killed, raped, kidnapped, bombed, enslaved, displaced, starved and burned countless innocent civilians in Darfur; and

WHEREAS, in March 2004 the United Nations Resident Humanitarian Coordinator stated that "...[t]he violence in Darfur appears to be particularly directed at a specific group based on their ethnic identity and appears to be systemized"; and

WHEREAS, some United Nations officials have called the situation in Darfur "the world's greatest humanitarian catastrophe"; and

WHEREAS, despite a cease-fire agreed to by all parties in Darfur in April, 2004, the Sudanese government persists in denying any culpability for the growing crisis, refuses to restrain its militia and impedes humanitarian access.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP call on the United States government to take the lead in launching an international response to the crisis in Sudan. Specifically, the NAACP calls on the United States, in conjunction with the United Nations and other countries of this world, to exert pressure on the Government of Sudan to halt the killing, disarm the militia and allow full, unimpeded access for humanitarian workers and supplies. This pressure should include travel and financial sanctions, as well as a ban on the purchase of Sudanese oil effective immediately and until the situation is addressed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP call on the United States government, in conjunction with the United Nations and other countries of this world, to take the lead in humanitarian efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP call on the United States government, in conjunction with the United Nations and other countries of this world, to accurately declare that the atrocities unfolding in Darfur, Sudan are genocide; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP call on the United States government, in conjunction with the United Nations and other countries of this world, to end the genocide in Sudan.

2004 EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

IV. INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. State Conference Education Committee Representation

Adopted

WHEREAS, each unit within the NAACP is mandated to have a standing Education Committee; and

WHEREAS, it is the primary responsibility of the Education Standing Committee to work towards ensuring that all students have access to a high quality education; and

WHEREAS, 93% of the education resources are provided at the state and/or local level; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP's national education strategic initiative, the *NAACP Call for Action in Education* calls on governors to develop a five-year plan to reduce the education-related racial disparities in their states by 50%; and

WHEREAS, governors are expected to begin submitting their Education Equity Plans in 2004 and State Conferences are responsible for working on behalf of the NAACP to monitor the implementation of the Education Equity Plans; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Equity Plan will impact districts and NAACP units across the state making it increasingly important to have an effective and efficient line of communication among the State Conference, Branch, College Chapter, and Youth Council Education Committees.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that effective November 1, 2004, the State Conference Education Committees shall be comprised of, but not limited to, all NAACP Education Chairs within the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Conference Education Committees shall meet at least twice a year, with at least one meeting being an "in-person" meeting, to develop the state's Annual Education Action Plan, provide training to Education Chairs, as well as report on education campaigns; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that in the year of the 50th Anniversary of the landmark *Brown v. Board* decision, NAACP units make a more vigilant effort to coordinate advocacy campaigns, recruit members, execute the national plan, and galvanize the resources to ensure equity in education in their service area.

2004 EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

V. LEGISLATION

1. Action Item in Support of Full Congressional Representation for the Residents of the United States Virgin Islands

Adopted

WHEREAS, in 1917 the United States purchased the Virgin Islands from the Danish Government for \$25,000,000 for the purpose of naval prevention of the Germans reaching the Panama Canal; and

WHEREAS, this is a classic example of “taxation without representation” and is contrary to everything upon which this nation is founded; and

WHEREAS, more than 80% of the residents of the United States Virgin Islands are (African descendants) African American; and

WHEREAS, residents of the United States Virgin Islands have given their lives for this nation as they served in the United States military, and are required by law at the age of eighteen years to register for the United States military; and

WHEREAS, this inequity means that the United States Virgin Islands population is paying money into a government, but do not have voting representation in the U.S. Senate or in the U. S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, this inequity further means that the federal government is receiving and spending millions of dollars without having to account for it.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP strongly support legislation for residents of the United States Virgin Islands providing them with full representation of two voting senators in the U.S. Senate and one voting member of the U.S. House of Representatives; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP urge Congress of the United States to pass this legislation and the President of the United States to sign said bill into law as expeditiously as possible.